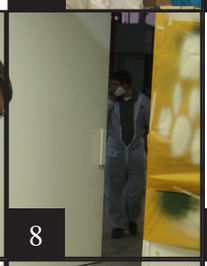
JANUARY 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Two Fort Carson paint booth operators learn new techniques and technology and on how to reduce air emissions and provide a healthier work place. *(Photos courtesy of the Iowa Waste Reduction Center's Spray Technique Analysis and Research for Defense)*	 1	 2	3	Combine trips and use buses or other alternatives to driving 4	5	Check daily air quality levels and air pollution forecasts in your area 6
 7	 8	9	Check your home for radon using a kit 10	11	Buy water-based paint, stains and cleaning products 12	13
 14	 Martin Luther King Day 15	EQWG 1000-1130 Green Bldg EPO Meeting 1300-1400 Green Bldg 16	Walk, bike or carpool 17	18	Consider retrofitting your wood-burning fireplace with natural gas 19	20
Don't overfill your gas tank - stop at the click 21	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER CERTIFICATION TRAINING 0800-1600 BLDG # 2410 (Green Bldg) ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED 22	23	24	ECO / BEM 1300-1330 Bldg. 218 General Environmental Awareness Training 1330-1400 Bldg. 218 25	26	27
28	Do not let engine idle for more than 30 seconds 29	Use non-aeresol products 30	31			

Remember when atmospheric contaminants were romantically called stardust?

—Lane Olinghouse

Fort Carson active in improving regional air quality

The air on Fort Carson is the same air the community breathes off the installation, making it an environmental issue that impacts everyone regardless of gates, fences and boundary lines.

The atmosphere, the blanket of air that surrounds the Earth, provides a valuable service by protecting it from solar radiation, recycling water and other chemicals, and helping to regulate a moderate climate. Air pollution modifies the natural characteristics of the atmosphere and threatens human health and the environment. Safeguarding air quality preserves plant and animal life.

In 2002, Fort Carson set a sustainability goal to reduce harmful air emissions generated, which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) calls hazardous air pollutants or HAPs, by 50 percent in five years in an effort to do its part to improve regional air quality.

These air pollutants originate from chemicals widely considered to be toxic and have the potential to cause serious health and environmental hazards. Sources that generate HAPs on Fort Carson include gasoline dispensing, paint shop operations, boilers, generators and military training activities involving smoke and obscurants and range activities. Mobile sources such as engineering equipment, tactical vehicles and government and personal vehicles also emit HAPs.

Fort Carson aggressively monitors HAP emissions and promotes initiatives to minimize or eliminate air pollution, such as substituting alternate products containing less harmful chemicals to perform the same function satisfactorily. Several projects initiated by the cooperative work of directorates on Fort Carson have yielded positive results in improving air quality.

In 2006, the installation sent two Fort Carson paint booth operators to the Iowa Waste Reduction Center's Spray Technique Analysis and Research for Defense Training program that meets the needs of military spray technicians. The paint course is designed to increase painting efficiency, teach new techniques/technology, educate operators on reducing air emissions and provide a healthier work place. In addition, a new state-of-the art paint booth was funded for construction, which will help decrease paint overspray and paint use, thereby reducing air emissions and hazardous waste streams. Although neither initiative is quantifiable yet, the long-term impacts are expected to be positive.

To help make Fort Carson and its mission sustainable, Fort Carson must minimize its emissions. Fort Carson's challenge over the next few years of significant growth, will be to continue to reduce HAPs, while still meeting its military mission and environmental compliance/stewardship roles. Reducing HAPs is one area the air program concentrates on due to its impact on regional air quality, health and safety of the public.

New initiatives being pursued in 2007 include several technology demonstration projects. One involves investigating HAP-free water dispersible chemical agent resistant coating paint for military vehicles. Federal grants are also being pursued such as a cooperative effort with the Environmental Protection Agency Region 8, School District 8 and Fort Carson to be a part of the Clean School Bus USA program.

To improve air quality in general, individuals can also make some changes. Consider carpooling, bicycling or walking to reduce harmful air pollutants, properly sealing and storing household chemicals to prevent emissions and purchasing green cleaning products.

Green cleaning is efficient cleaning that is protective of personal health without causing damage to the environment. Most people spend the majority of their time indoors. By using green cleaning products, they improve their own indoor air quality. These products are not corrosive, not carcinogenic, not combustible, non-toxic and therefore, better for the environment.

People interested in green cleaning can look for the Green Seal Certification on products. Green Seal is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the environment and changing the marketplace by promoting the manufacture, purchase and use of environmentally-responsible products and services.

For more information about the Fort Carson Air Program, call 526-1708. To find out more about Green Seal Certification, visit http://www.greenseal.org.